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Cosmic Explosion

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CANBERRA COSMOS
V
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Bruce Stadium, Saturday 24th February 1996
Issue 11

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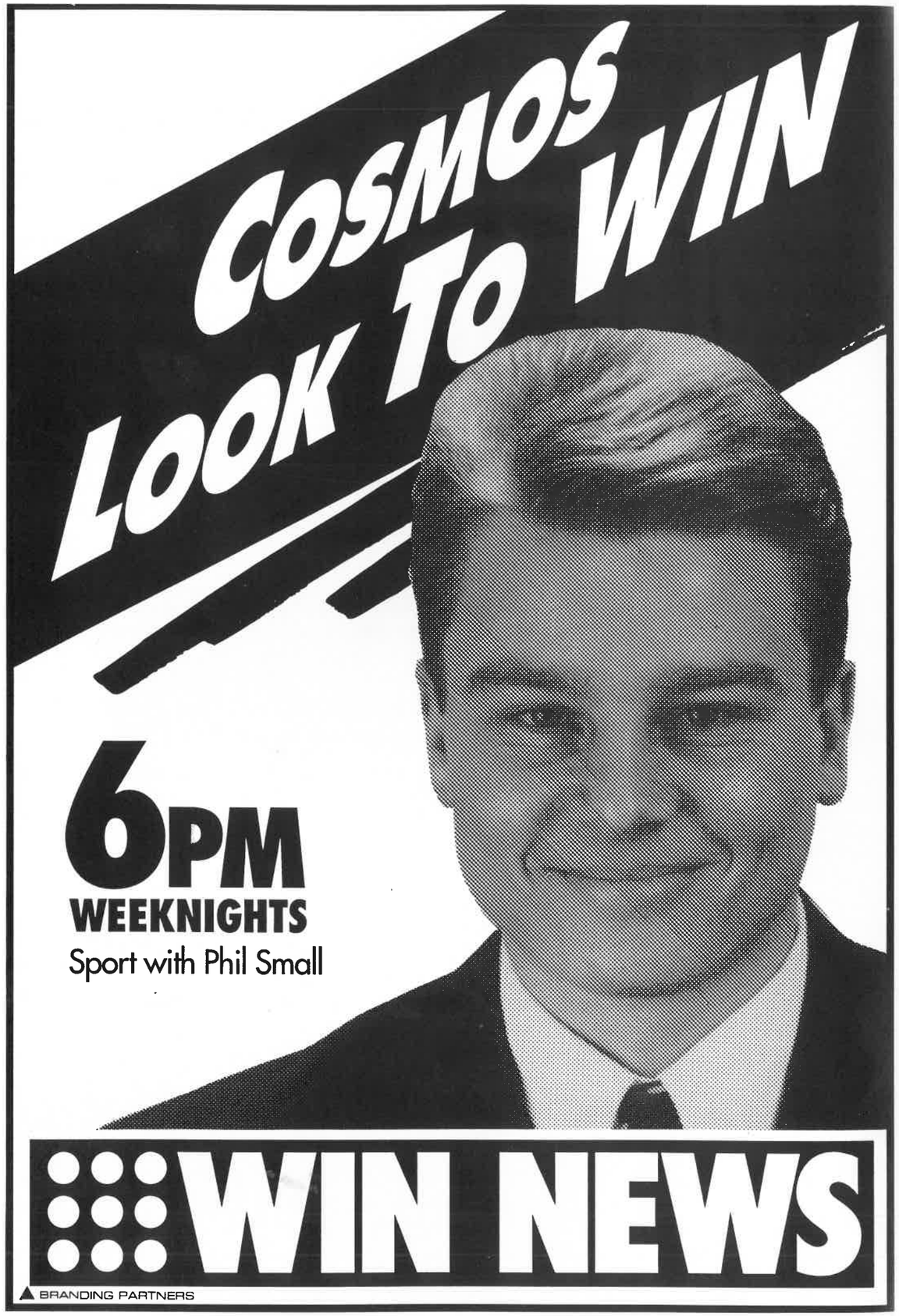
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CANBERRA Cosmos

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MATCH PREVIEW

David Wright previews tonight's match against the Knights.

Premiers and Cup Winners last season, boasting the Player of the Year, Under 21 Player of the Year and Coach of the Year in each of the last two seasons illustrates the pedigree the Melbourne Knights bring to Bruce Stadium tonight.

Sadly, the Knights have lost a couple of the ingredients which have been critical to their outstanding achievements. The loss of Mark Viduka to Europe and, to a lesser extent, defender Steve Horvat, left two big holes on the playing front. The subsequent loss of team mentor, Mirko Bazic, who returned home to Croatia for personal reasons a few weeks ago, was an enormous blow to the high flying Melbourne club.

Bazic sought to replace Mark Viduka with John Markovski, the big striker from Morwell Falcons and, when Markovski failed to fire, he brought in Joe Bacak from UTS Olympic to see if he could overcome the Club's scoring problems.

Ian Dobson, a former professional in England with Hull City and Hereford United and a former Melbourne Knights and Preston player who had been coaching at Altona Gate for the last three years, was selected to replace Bazic early in January.

The Knight's form belies their undoubted abilities and the depth in their squad. They are clinging on to 6th spot on the ladder and have already relinquished their hold on the *Johnnie Walker Cup*, going out in the first round to eventual winners and *Canberra Cosmos* eliminators, local rivals South Melbourne.

Despite numerous injuries and absences on international duty of many of its key players, the Knights still boast the best defensive record in the *Ericsson Cup* having conceded only 13 goals in 20 matches. Its problems clearly lie at the other end where only bottom placed Wollongong City have scored fewer than the Knight's 18 goals - a sharp contrast to the tally of 56 from only 26 games last season. An incredible statistic is that they have only scored four first half goals this season - the equivalent of one goal every 225 minutes of first half football!

With Danny Tiatto, the stocky left sided flanker who impressed in the Olyroos recent Olympic Qualifiers, and striker Joe Spiteri missing on international duty (as will *Cosmos'* Paul Wade), Dobson's task of solving his scoring problems will not be made any easier, but he will have been encouraged by the ease with which the *Cosmos* defence surrendered to Newcastle last weekend, conceding four goals in the first 46 minutes of the game.

Some day soon somebody is going to suffer very badly at the hands of the Melbourne Knights. Let's hope their goal scoring problems continue for at least another week and that the virus that has affected their camp over the last week or so, has weakened their defence sufficient to let the *Cosmos* record a memorable double over the holders of the double. You can be sure that they will not have forgotten that it was the *Canberra Cosmos* who went to Somers Street and chalked up three of the 13 goals they have conceded this season in what was a memorable victory.

Of considerable interest to local fans, particularly of Junior Soccer in Canberra, will be the return of local prodigy, Joe Simunic, who recently made his debut for the Knights after completing an AIS scholarship. Watch out also for strikers Ollie Pondeljak, Joe Bacak and John Markovski, and classy defenders, Vinko Buljabasic, Fausto De Amicis and Andrew Marth. The relative merits of Steve Mautone and Frank Juric will also be worth watching.

My tip? The team that scores first will take all three points.

DAVID WRIGHT

COVER PHOTO

Norman Kelly back in action for the Cosmos

From the LYONS Den



They say that football is a funny game, but I have to confess I couldn't see the joke last week when we were 3-0 down at half time against the Newcastle Breakers. Needless to say I had a few quiet words to say to the lads at the break. They didn't seem to have much effect at first - we were four down within a minute of the restart! But I put that down to bad luck because the ball just skimmed off the top of Paul Dee's head as he attempted to clear a cross and the ball flew into the far top corner giving Steve Mautone no chance at all. At that time, my half time prediction of 4-4 seemed just right.

At that point I felt the final whistle couldn't come quick enough. But I hadn't quite reckoned on the 'never say die' attitude of some of our players like Wadey and newcomer Alex Castro. Wadey got us going with a couple of goals in quick succession only for Newcastle to stretch their lead again when Troy Halpin completed his hat-trick.

Three goals in fourteen minutes from Michael Musitano, Norm Kelly and finally Jason Dunn saw us grab a share of the points. The 5-5 result was the highest draw ever recorded in the 20 years of national league soccer in Australia - a record I suggest may stand for many a day - at least until FIFA decide to widen the goals!

I didn't have much to say at full time. What can you say when you score five goals away from home and still don't win. Mind you, I don't suppose Kozzie (Newcastle coach, John Kosmina) was short of a word or two when he got his lads back to the changeroom. I bet the paint on the walls is still blistering from his tirade!

After some disappointing results in the period since Christmas, I think we've turned the corner again. We're almost back to full strength after a spate of injuries and, although we have some tough fixtures over the next month - 7 games in March alone - I still believe we can make the Top 6, and then it's anybody's guess what we can achieve.

Tonight's visitors, Melbourne Knights bring new coach Ian Dobson (Wadey's best man at his wedding) to Bruce Stadium. Like myself, this is Ian's first season in the *Ericsson Cup*. Unlike me, though, Ian has had the unenviable task of taking over from Mirko Bazic, but only after the Knight's lost their young sensation, Mark Viduka to Dinamo Zagreb. The Knights have got used to being at the top, and to-night's match is important for them to maintain their position in the Top 6. It's also vital for us - if we lose, we will be at least 10 points adrift of the 6th placed team with only a dozen games to go. Making the Top 6 from that position would be almost as great a feat as coming back from 0-4!

Finally, we welcome all our supporters to join us at 'Sails Waterfront Pub' after the match to meet both teams, and hopefully to celebrate a COSMOS victory.

MICHAEL LYONS

SPORTSMANS WAREHOUSE

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Ericsson Cup Draw

CANBERRA COSMOS - DRAW

Rd	Date	Match	Time	Score	Attendance
1	8/10/95	v Adelaide City	7:30pm	0-2	4,680
2	**14/10/95**	**v Sydney United**	**7:00pm**	**0-0**	**5,490**
4	22/10/95	v Sth Melbourne	7:00pm	2-2	2,725
5	**28/10/95**	**v UTS Olympic**	**7:00pm**	**2-3**	**3,920**
3	**1/11//95**	**v Wollongong City**	**7:30pm**	**2-2**	**2,240**
6	4/11/95	v Marconi Fairfield	7:00pm	0-1	3,617
7	**11/11/95**	**v West Adelaide**	**7:00pm**	**1-1**	**3,210**
8	18/11/95	v Brisbane Strikers	7:00pm	1-3	4,809
9	**25/11/95**	**v Newcastle Breakers**	**7:00pm**	**3-2**	**2,240**
10	3/12/95	v Melbourne Knights	7:00pm	3-1	4,532
12	**9/12/95**	**v Adelaide City**	**7:00pm**	**0-0**	**4,120**
11	**13/12//95**	**v Morwell Falcons**	**7:30pm**	**5-0**	**2,170**
13	17/12/95	v Sydney United	7:00pm	0-3	4,984
14	22/12/95	v Wollongong City	7:45pm	3-1	3,201
15	**26/12/95**	**v Sth Melbourne**	**7:00pm**	**3-1**	**3,128**
16	30/12/95	v UTS Olympic	7:00pm	0-2	4,753
17	**6/1/96**	**v Marconi Fairfield**	**7:00pm**	**1-3**	**5,290**
JWC	13/1/96	v West Adelaide (1st leg)	7.30pm	1-1	2,751
JWC	**20/1/96**	**v West Adelaide (2nd leg)**	**7.30pm**	**1-0**	**1,573**
JWC	25/1/96	v South Melbourne (semi-final)	7.30pm	1-3	2,864
18	4/2/96	v West Adelaide	7:30pm	1-2	1,629
19	**10/2/96**	**v Brisbane Strikers**	**7:00pm**	**5-5**	**2,808**
20	16/2/96	v Newcastle Breakers	7:45pm		
21	**24/2/96**	**v Melbourne Knights**	**7:00pm**		
22	2/3/96	v Morwell Falcons	7:00pm		
23	10/3/96	v Adelaide City	7:30pm		
24	**13/3/96**	**v Sydney United**	**7:30pm**		
25	**16/3/96**	**v Wollongong City**	**7:00pm**		
26	24/3/96	v Sth Melbourne	7:00pm		
27	**27/3/96**	**v UTS Olympic**	**7:30pm**		
28	30/3/96	v Marconi Fairfield	7:00pm		
29	**6/4/96**	**v West Adelaide**	**7:00pm**		
30	8/4/96	v Brisbane Strikers	7:00pm		
31	**13/4/96**	**v Newcastle Breakers**	**7:00pm**		
32	21/4/96	v Melbourne Knights	7:00pm		
33	**28/4/96**	**v Morwell Falcons**	**7:00pm**		

NSL Top 6 Series commences on 4th/5th May 1996
Grand Final 9th June 1996

COSMOS LEADING SCORERS

Paul Wade	11
Michael Musitano	5
Lachlan Armstrong	4
Marko Perinovic	4
Tony Lemezina	3
Jason Dunn	3
Norman Kelly	2
Paul Dee	1
Arsenije Popovich	1
Alex Castro	1



ACT ACADEMY LEADING SCORERS

Anthony Barac	8
Pat Phommaseissy	5
Scott Conlon	5
Tony Lemezina	4
Lindsay Wilson	4
John Glass	3
Daniel Bennett	2
Oscar Zamora	2
Steve Richards	1
Michael Barac	1

CANBERRA COSMOS STAR PROFILE



NAME:	**Steve Mautone**
POSITION:	**Goalkeeper**
AGE:	**25 years**
WEIGHT:	**85 kg**
HEIGHT:	**6 ft 2 ins**
LIKES:	**Socialising**
DISLIKES:	**Bad drivers**
FAVOURITE FOOD:	**Pasta**
BEST SPORTING MOMENT:	**Debut for Cosmos at Bruce Stadium,**
WORST SPORTING MOMENT:	**Serious Knee injury**
GREATEST INFLUENCE:	**Jeff Olver**
PLAYING EXP:	**100 A League games Joeys Ollyroos and Socceroos experience**

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS - A BRIEF HISTORY

Statistician, Andrew Howe takes a look at the Knights.

Melbourne Knights entered the 1995/96 Ericsson Cup as league champions and cup holders. These two trophies, both won for the first time in 1994/95 were a long time coming for a club which has existed in one form or another for over 40 years, and who had to come so close so many times in the past five years.

Essendon Croatia, who later changed their name to Melbourne Croatia (1984) and then the Knights (1993) were formed in 1975. Until then a series of merges and takeovers had transformed the club into what we know it as today.

A club simply called Croatia entered the Victorian provisional league in 1953. Croatia merged with Preston Croat in 1965 and three years later took out their first Victorian state league title. After being expelled from the Victorian Soccer Federation in 1972 the club took over the Essendon Lions in 1975. The Lions themselves were developed from a combination of Victorian clubs - Hajduk and Ukrainian Lions, who merged in 1959. In 1978 and 1979 Essendon Croatia won the Victorian state league championship. The club were state league runners up in each of the following four years. Eddie Krncevic, Australia's first overseas success story of the modern era, came through the Essendon state league ranks.

With the drastic restructure of the national league in 1984, Melbourne Croatia as they were known entered the country's major league. It was in this year the national league reverted from a one division, 16 team league, to a dual conference set up. Each conference consisted of twelve teams. Melbourne Croatia was probably the strongest candidate for one of the extra national league positions. Their national career commenced stunningly as the club made it to the preliminary final of the southern conference at only their first attempt. Not to mention a narrow loss to Newcastle in the final of the national knock-out cup in the same year. In this year Croatia played a team from the Canberra region for the only time in the pre-Cosmos era. Canberra City won this contest 3-0 at Bruce Stadium.

Croatia were final series contenders in 1989 and 1989/90, but their first grand final appearance came at the climax of the 1990/91 season. In probably the most enthralling national league final ever played, Croatia in most people's eyes outplayed South Melbourne only to lose in a penalty shoot-out. The teams drew 1-1 in front of Victoria's biggest ever national league crowd - 23,318. The same scenario occurred the following year, the Knights losing on penalties to Adelaide City. Yet another grand final played outside of Melbourne, in May 1995, where the Knights were ultimate victors at last. The Knights gained deserved revenge in defeating Adelaide City 2-0 in the most one sided of national league grand finals ever played.

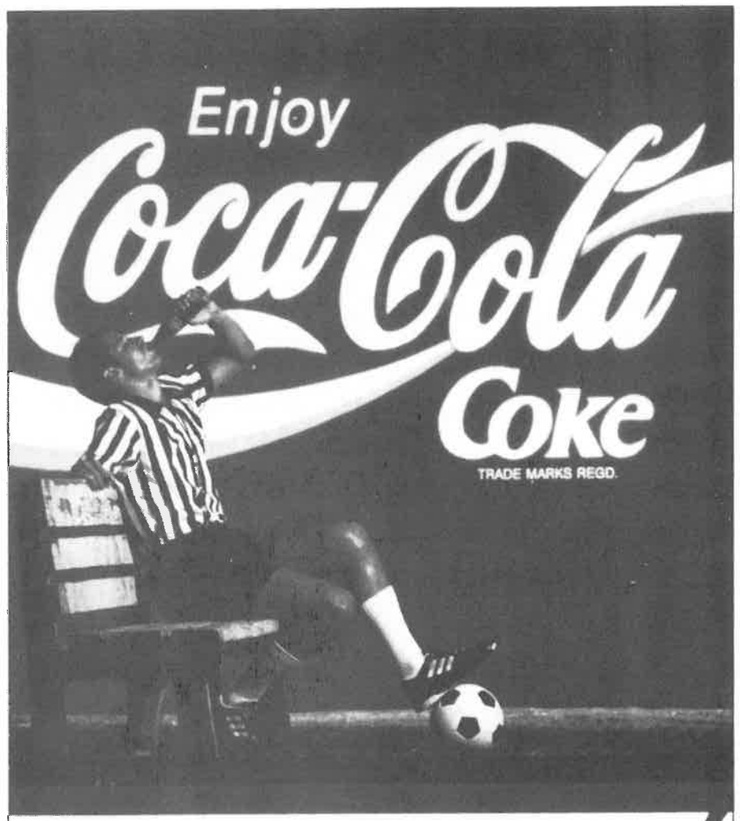
What else could the Knights have won last season? The team were champions, minor premiers and cup-winners—the first ever that one club has ever taken out the 'treble'. The 6-0 cup final win was again the most one-sided final of this competition. Knights teenage sensation Mark Viduka took out the player of the year, under 21 player of the year and top scorer of the year. Mirko Bazic was voted coach of the year. Amazingly, the same two people had won all four same awards the previous season. To say the Knights deserved the 1994/95 league title is a colossal understatement.

Andrew Howe

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS - A SUMMARY OF NATIONAL LEAGUE PERFORMANCE

SEASON	FINAL LADDER POSITION	KNOCKOUT PLACING	AVERAGE HOME CROWD
1984^	3rd (12 teams)	2nd (24 teams)	2800
1985^	4th (12 teams)	=9th (32 teams)	2000
1986^	10th (12 teams)	=9th(32 teams)	2300
1987	9th (13 teams)	= 5th (13 teams)	1900
1988	9th (14 teams)	= 9th (24 teams)	1700
1989	4th (14 teams)	=9th(14 teams)	4000
1989-90	3rd (14 teams)	=5th (14 teams)	4200
1990-91	1st (14 teams)	=9th (14 teams)	4100
1991-92	1st (14 teams)	=3rd (14 teams)	3900
1992-93	10th (14 teams)	=9th (14 teams)	2800
1993-94	1st (14 teams)	=8th (14 teams)	3100
1994-95	1st* (13 teams)	**1st** (14 teams)	4800

^ national league split into two 12 team conferences. Melbourne Knights in southern conference.
* Grand Final winners



TODAY'S
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CANBERRA

Ericsson Cup Teams

Canberra Cosmos

25. Steve Mautone
2. Paul Dee
4. Richard Watson
5. Jason Dunn
6. Paul Wade
7. Michael Garcia
8. Norman Kelly
9. Lachlan Armstrong
10. Marko Perinovic (C)
11. Toplica Popovich
12. Arsenije Popovich
14. James Baxter
15. Alex Castro
20. Ben Harris
21. John Koch
22. Michael Musitano
23. Stan Dukic
24. Tony Lemezina
26. Gus Cerro
27. Peter Mazis
29. Njegosh Popovich

COACH: Michael Lyons
ASSISTANT COACH: Ian Heywood

PLAYING STRIP

SHIRT	Dark Blue
Trim	Orange/White
SHORTS	Dark Blue
Trim	Orange/White
SOCKS	White

Melbourne Knights

1. Frank Juric
2. Vinko Buljubasic
3. Fausto De Amicis
4. David Cervinski
5. Zoran Markovski
6. Andrew Marth (C)
7. Mark Silic
8. Idriz Pelja
9. Joe Spiteri
10. Lubo Lapsansky
11. Oliver Pondeljak
13. Damian Vojtek
14. Daniel Tiatto
15. Krunoslav Razov
16. Ante Kovacevic
17. John Markovski
19. Damian Grganovic
20. Vilson Knezevic
21. Dragi Nastevski
22. Damir Movric
23. Branko Bacak
24. Tomislav Pondeljak

COACH: Ian Dobson

PLAYING STRIP

SHIRT	Red
Trim:	Red/White/Blue
SHORTS	White
Trim	Red
SOCKS	Blue Red/White/Blue

Les Scheinflug Cup Teams

ACT Academy of Sport

Blair Machin
Jason Markezic
Manuel Sermeno
Oscar Zamora
Lindsay Wilson
Steve Richards
Michael Barac
Daniel Bennett
Anthony Barac
Pathana Phommaseisy
David Arranz
John Glass
Luke Larfield
Adam Powell
Antony Kelava
Vasko Stojceski
Silvio Miceli
Matthew Valeri
Dennis Langone
Shane Lyons
Craig Rankine
Scott Conlon

PLAYING STRIP

SHIRT:	White
Trim:	Blue/Jade/Yellow
SHORTS:	White
Trim:	Blue/Jade/Yellow

Coach: Chris Tanzey
Assistant: Rod Lynes
Manager: Chris Conti

A.1.S.

Barney Smith
Tynan Scope
Simon Colosimo
Aaron Westervent
Brett Emerton
Eddie Bosnar
Tony Trpcevski
Anto Seric
Vince Grella
John Maisano
Luke Tomich
Peter Buljan
John Maisano
Luke Tomich
Peter Buljan
John Sapazovski
Michael Cunico
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COACH: Mike Milovanovic

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From The Grandstand

In this issue, Chris Kunz looks at the crowds - past and present and warns that we should be careful not to overestimate the size of the crowd.

It is great to see that A League crowds are up nearly 30% on the last season. As far as Canberra is concerned, many of us look back with nostalgia to the days of Canberra City in the National Soccer League - for that was when our biggest crowds rolled in.

A framed photo (see below) I have at home is a reminder of just how big they were. It is captioned 'Australian Flag Presentation - To Canberra City S.C. for services to Australian soccer - March 25 1979.'

In the foreground are Steve Doszpot (then Vice President, now VP of ACTSF), Charles Perkins (President), MHR for Canberra John Haslem and members of the Junior Membership I ran: Jamie Harris, Julie Peat, Susie Cirina, Stephen Dolby, Thomas Noble and Kathy Vivian.

The symbolism is most appropriate as we were the first community-based team in National League soccer. What is more striking though is the size of the crowd - that day there were 7,321 for a 3-0 loss to Footscray. People were packed into every seat and even crowded the platforms (as well as liberally sprinkled the outer ground) - but note: no Corporate Boxes or glassed areas! We once said the grandstand held 6,000 - but it doesn't anymore...

Many of you have expressed disbelief at the announced crowd figures. In December I copied a seating plan of the ground to check on stand capacities, then counted every seat. This is what I came up with: Main Grandstand (excluding side fringe areas and Corporate Boxes) 4,293; Hill Stand 3,620.

I then took the plan to the South Melbourne game and did a crowd count just before half-time. I came up with 3,258 (2,876 in the Main area, 315 in the Hill Stand and 67 on the grass). The official tally from the gate supplied by the independent ground and security staff (and usually the announced one) was 3,128 - but that did not include those players and officials in the early game and I had probably over-estimated at 120 the Corporate Box inhabitants.

The lesson here is clear - don't join the queue of doubters when the figures go up - the Grandstand holds far less than it did had has yet to be filled. Walk to the outer ground area and you will gain a better perspective - and keep in mind that the number 4,293 is with every Main Grandstand seat (down to the front) taken.

Chris Kunz



What's Ahead

Round 21 - THIS WEEKEND

23/2	Wollongong	v Newcastle
24/02	COSMOS	v M. Knights
24/02	Marconi	v Sydney Utd
25/02	UTS Olympic	v W. Adelaide
25/02	S. Melbourne	v Brisbane
25/02	Adelaide C.	v Morwell

Round 22

01/03	Newcastle	v S. Melbourne
02/03	Morwell	v COSMOS
02/03	Brisbane	v UTS Olympic
03/03	Sydney Utd	v Adelaide C
03/03	M. Knights	v Wollongong
03/03	W. Adelaide	v Marconi

Round 23

08/03	Newcastle	v UTS Olympic
09/03	Brisbane	v Marconi
09/03	Morwell	v Wollongong
10/03	Adelaide C	v COSMOS
10/03	M. Knights	v S. Melbourne
10/03	Sydney Utd	v W. Adelaide

Round 24

12/03	Marconi	v Newcastle
12/03	W. Adelaide	v Brisbane
13/03	COSMOS	v Sydney Utd
13/03	Wollongong	v Adelaide C.
13/03	S. Melbourne	v Morwell
13/03	UTS Olympic	v M. Knights

ROUND 25

15/03	Newcastle	v W. Adelaide
16/03	COSMOS	v Wollongong
16/03	Morwell	v UTS Olympic
16/03	Sydney Utd	v Brisbane
17/03	Adelaide C.	v S. Melbourne
17/03	M. Knights	v Marconi

REFEREES FOR TONIGHT'S GAMES

COSMOS

Referee:	D Crawford
Linesmen:	C Blain
	C McKillop
4th Official:	G Dunster
Inspector:	C Thayer

ACADEMY

Referee:	B Wilson
Linesmen:	G Martin
	J Humphey
Inspector:	O Henness

Competition Tables

Ericsson Cup Table as at 18th February 1996

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
UTS Olympic	20	12	5	3	39	21	41
Marconi Fairfield	20	12	4	4	38	22	40
Brisbane Strikers	20	11	3	6	35	22	36
Sydney United	20	8	8	4	25	17	32
West Adelaide	20	9	4	7	28	25	31
Melbourne Knights	19	8	5	6	18	13	29
Adelaide City	20	8	4	8	33	27	28
South Melbourne	20	8	2	10	31	35	26
Morwell Falcons	20	7	4	9	23	35	25
Canberra Cosmos	**20**	**5**	**6**	**9**	**33**	**36**	**21**
Newcastle Breakers	19	2	5	12	20	41	11
Wollongong City	20	3	2	15	15	44	11

Match Results Round 20(16/17/18 February 1996)

Newcastle Breakers	5	v	5	Canberra COSMOS
Brisbane Strikers	1	v	1	Wollongong City
Marconi Fairfield	1	v	3	UTS Olympic
Morwell Falcons	0	v	0	Sydney UTD
Melbourne Knights	0	v	1	Adelaide City
West Adelaide	0	v	2	South Melbourne

Les Scheinflug Youth Cup

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Marconi Fairfield	19	15	1	3	64	14	46
A.I.S.	20	13	2	5	63	28	41
ACT Academy of Sport	20	12	2	6	40	35	38
Sydney United	19	12	0	7	38	25	36
Wollongong City	19	10	2	7	43	38	32
UTS Olympic	19	8	4	7	40	28	28
Parramatta Eagles	20	7	6	7	35	31	27
QLD Academy of Sport	17	8	1	8	44	30	25
Newcastle Breakers	20	7	2	11	33	42	23
Blacktown City	19	5	4	10	30	56	19
St George	17	2	2	13	14	58	8
NSW ITC	19	2	0	01	11	70	6

Match Results Round 20 (16/17/18 February 1996)

Newcastle Breakers	0	v	1	ACT Academy
A.I.S.	3	v	1	NSW ITC
Qld Academy of Sport	2	v	5	Wollongong City
Blacktown City		v		Sydney United
St George	0	v	4	Parramatta Eagles

COSMOS

Next Home Game

versus

Sydney United

Saturday
13th March 1996

Bruce Stadium

RESULTS SERVICE

0055 66595

for up to date information on the Ericsson Cup.

Project Coordination

PROJECT COORDINATION SUPPORTERS OF THE CANBERRA COSMOS

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Construction Materials

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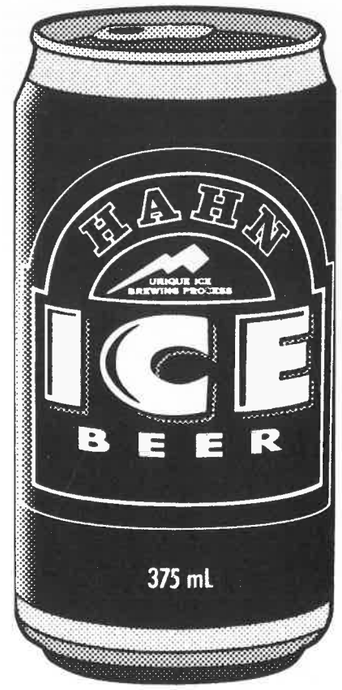
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